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Aaron Crossley Hobart Seymour

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Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Seymour, Aaron Crossley Hobart

(1789–1870)

D. J. O'Donoghue, revised by Leon Litvack

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Seymour, Aaron Crossley Hobart (1789–1870), hymn writer, was born on 19 December 1789 in co. Limerick, the son of John Crossley Seymour, vicar of Caherelly in the diocese of Cashel, and his wife, the eldest daughter of Edward Wight, rector of Meelick, co. Limerick, a member of an old Surrey family. His younger brother was Michael Hobart Seymour. Aaron received most of his education at home, and was drawn in early life into the religious group formed by Selina Hastings, countess of Huntingdon, whose biography he afterwards wrote (1839). His first work was *Vital Christianity, exhibited in a series of letters on the most important subjects of religion, addressed to young persons* (1810; 2nd edn, 1819). This work, written during an illness, contained most of his hymns; a few of these compositions, including 'Jesus, immortal king, arise', came into general use. In 1816 Seymour published a memoir of Charlotte Brooke, prefixed to an edition of her *Reliques of Ancient Irish Poetry*. He lived in Naples from 1839 until 1847, and subsequently retired to Bristol, where he died at his home, 11 Berkeley Square, on 22 October 1870. He left at least one daughter. Seymour took a deep interest in hymnology, and assisted Joseph Miller in preparing his *Singers and Songs of the Church* (1869).

Sources

J. Julian, ed., *A dictionary of hymnology*, rev. edn (1907); repr. in 2 vols. (1915)

J. Miller, *Singers and songs of the church* (1869)

d. cert.

CGPLA Eng. & Wales (1870)

Wealth at Death

under £1000: probate, 10 Dec 1870, *CGPLA Eng. & Wales*

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See also

Seymour, Michael Hobart (1800–1874), anti-Catholic polemicist